

**MYANMAR POLLS**  
Official results show Suu Kyi's party won absolute majority  
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# The Daily Star



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**"But I also know that no single election will settle the matter. Our divisions run deep; our challenges are daunting."**  
FORMER US PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



**"Never in history has vaccine research progressed so quickly. We must apply the same urgency and innovation to ensuring that all countries benefit from this scientific achievement."**  
WHO CHIEF TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS



**"Leo, I have Pele's shirt at home. Next to it I want to put yours!"**  
DYNAMO KYIV COACH MIRCEA LUCESCU TO LIONEL MESSI AFTER THE MATCH AGAINST BARCELONA



## Hope offered to highways

RHD drafts masterplan for mega expressway network; it may require more than \$70b over 15-20 years



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is developing a masterplan to turn all major highways into expressways under an umbrella network to enhance mobility, reliability and safety of traffic, and reduce transportation costs for sustained economic growth.

The concept of the masterplan, called National Expressway Programme, has already been drafted by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) and discussed by officials concerned at the road transport and bridges ministry.

The expressways will have four or more lanes, including one for emergency, with limited exit and entry facilities. Most of those would be designed as toll roads where it is feasible, according to the RHD officials involved with the plan.

An expressway is a highway typically planned for high-speed traffic, usually having no or a fewer number of intersections, limited access and exit points, and a divider between lanes for traffic moving in opposite directions.

The implementation of the mega plan

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A policeman checks a passenger's bag inside a bus in the capital's Kakrail yesterday, a day after nine buses were set on fire in different parts of the city. Law enforcers were also making commuters aware that they should call 999, the National Emergency Service number, to report any suspicious activities inside running vehicles.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Boost regional cooperation on Covid-19

Dhaka urges at 5-nation meet hosted by China

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh has called on China, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to share their experiences of combating the first wave of Covid-19 in order to effectively deal with the possible second wave.

A high-level virtual meeting was held among representatives from the countries on Tuesday, where Bangladesh urged for strengthening of regional cooperation to face challenges of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"Acknowledging the importance of this consultation as a platform for enhanced regional cooperation, all parties agreed to hold dialogues routinely for a win-win cooperation in different sectors of mutual interest," said a press statement of the foreign ministry on Thursday.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui, China's former ambassador to India, hosted the virtual meeting on Thursday. Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen represented Bangladesh in the meeting. He told The Daily Star that "Bangladesh takes part in all such initiatives as it is about Covid-19 response and collaboration".

He said Bangladesh is open to any

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## Cops sue BNP men for arson

452 accused in 9 cases over torching of vehicles in Dhaka; 21 of them held



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police claimed that the nine buses were torched in the capital on Thursday by leaders and activists of the BNP, its affiliated bodies and the BNP-led 20-party alliance at the directive of their central leaders.

The aim was to foil the Dhaka-18 by-polls that day, police said in cases filed over the arson attacks.

Law enforcers filed nine cases with six police stations yesterday against 452 named accused, mostly members of the BNP and its front organisations. There are also many unnamed accused.

The charges brought against the accused include attempted murder under the penal code and sabotage under the Special Powers Act, 1974 and Explosives Substances Act.

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## Quader blames BNP; Fakhrul says 'agents of govt' did it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League and the BNP yesterday traded blame for Thursday's torching of nine buses at different places in the capital.

Since the buses were set on fire in a few hours, policemen said it could have been an attempted subversive act. Nobody was injured in any of the incidents.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said BNP activists set fire to the buses.

"Even during the humanitarian crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, they [BNP] have continued their destructive activities. The Awami League, along with the people, is ready to give a fitting reply to all of their terrorist acts," Quader told a press conference at AL President Sheikh Hasina's office in Dhanmondi.

Quader added that violence will not be tolerated.

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## DISPUTED KASHMIR BORDER

# 14 killed in fierce Indo-Pak clashes

AGENCIES

At least 10 civilians and four security personnel were killed in cross-border shelling between India and Pakistan yesterday, in one of this year's deadliest days along the heavily militarised frontier separating the nuclear-armed rivals, officials said.

The barrage of mortars and other weapons along several parts of the Line of Control - the de-facto border - began after Indian troops foiled an infiltration attempt from Pakistan in northern Kashmir, officials in Srinagar and New Delhi said.

Pakistan's military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

At least five separate clashes -- involving shelling and gunfire -- were reported along the 740-kilometre (460-mile) ceasefire line, officials from the two sides told AFP.

Hundreds of villagers were moved away from the LoC in Indian-controlled territory, while Pakistani officials said dozens of homes were set ablaze by Indian shelling on their side.

The new peak in tensions came only five days after three Indian soldiers and three militants were killed in an exchange along the LoC.

Indian officials said six civilians, three soldiers and a border guard were killed on



their side in yesterday's clashes. Officials on the Pakistani side said four civilians were killed there. Indian officials said they believed there were also casualties among Pakistani security forces.

Both India and Pakistan claim Kashmir in full. Each rules part of the region, with New Delhi long accusing its neighbour of fueling an insurgency, which Pakistan denies.

Indian and Pakistani troops regularly exchange fire across the mountainous border, but the shelling was particularly intense yesterday, according to Indian officials. Both sides also accused the other of firing at civilian areas.

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## 1,767 infected with Covid-19 in a day

19 deaths recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen people died of Covid-19 in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths due to coronavirus infection rose to 6,159 which is 1.44 percent of all confirmed cases in the country.

The DGHS reported the first three cases in the country on March 8.

Later on March 18, the authorities reported the first death due to Covid-19 in the country.

As the authorities reported 1,767 new infections in the same 24 hours, the total number of people infected rose to 428,965, added the release.

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## DIABETIC PATIENTS

# Need for extra precautions to prevent Covid

MOUJUD AHMED SUJAN

As people with diabetes have a higher risk of severe Covid-19 infections and death from the virus, experts said diabetic patients need to be extra careful, do regular physical activity and eat a balanced diet to stay safe.

They said the government should give priority to improving patients' access to diabetes medicines, technologies and testing supplies in case there is a surge in Covid-19 infections in the country during the winter.

The pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of the people with diabetes. A recent government study found that around 39.1 percent or nearly four out of 10 people who died from Covid-19 had diabetes.

The study of National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM) said some 61 percent of the deceased, who had diabetes, died within 14 days of contracting the virus.

A total of 1,016 Covid-19 patients were interviewed under the survey titled "Risk Factors Associated with Morbidity and Mortality: Outcomes of the Covid-19

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## বিশ্ব ডায়াবেটিস দিবস

### ১৪ নভেম্বর-২০২০

"ডায়াবেটিস-সেবায় পার্থক্য আনতে পারেন নার্সরাই"

প্রতিরোধই সর্বোত্তম: ডায়াবেটিস প্রতিরোধে করণীয়

- শরীরের ওজন নিয়ন্ত্রণে রাখুন।
- শাকসব্জি ও ফলমূল বেশি খান।
- নিয়মিত শারীরিক পরিশ্রম করুন।
- রক্তে গ্লুকোজের মাত্রা নিয়মিত মাপুন এবং প্রয়োজনীয় চিকিৎসা গ্রহন করুন।
- তামাক ও তামাকজাত দ্রব্য গ্রহন থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- চিকিৎসকের পরামর্শ ব্যতীত ওষধ পরিবর্তন বা সেবন বন্ধ করবেন না।
- একজন স্বাস্থ্য কর্মী বা ডাক্তারের নিকট থেকে আপনার ডায়াবেটিস জানুন।

ডায়াবেটিস পরিমাপ করতে আপনার নিকটস্থ কমিউনিটি ক্লিনিক ও এনসিডি কর্নার, উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্সসহ যে কোন স্বাস্থ্যসেবা প্রতিষ্ঠানে যোগাযোগ করুন।

প্রচারে : নন কমিউনিকেশন ডিজিজ কন্ট্রোল প্রোগ্রাম (NCDC) স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।